

FIELD TRIPS OF THE CLUB

TRIP OF APRIL 12—EASTER SUNDAY—TO BRANCHVILLE, CONN.

Easter Sunday was not the warm, sunny day that people usually look forward to; instead the day was cold, damp and overcast. However Torrey members are hardy and a group appeared. Because it had rained almost every day the preceding week the mosses and lichens were in excellent condition. *Bartramia pomiformis* was discovered for the first time in the region in many isolated patches and *Buxbaumia aphylla* was really almost common. It was gratifying to note the interest aroused in these tiny plants as everyone eventually knelt down to examine a fruiting body with a hand lens. One magnificent fruiting patch of *Baeomyces roseus* was seen in the morning.

It is always a delight these days to find virgin forest. The hemlock forest of the morning trail is one of rare beauty. The stand of *Cypripedium acaule* was just making its appearance above the ground in the center of the hemlock forest. However, everyone could imagine what a magnificent sight so many orchids in bloom would make.

Plants were easily identified but few were in bloom. Hepatica, Trillium, Early Saxifrage, Antennaria, and Golden Saxifrage were the only herbaceous plants in flower.

Recognition of plants by taste proved to be an interesting topic. Those who had never tasted partridge berry, wintergreen, black birch, water cress, toothwort, and dwarf ginseng partook of the opportunity.

We digressed from our botanical studies for a short time in the afternoon to become amateur herpetologists. The leader brought some spotted salamander eggs from out a pond in the woods and discussed the two types of masses laid by one species. Wood frog tadpoles and water newts were also seen.

Yellow Birch and Beech were dominating species of the forest trail taken in the afternoon—both attaining to unusual sizes. An Alternate-leaved Dogwood was the rarest tree observed.

Dr. Sharp, director of Life's Camps peped us up for our long afternoon trek by making a large fire in the Recreation Hall fireplace of Life's Girls' Camp and preparing a huge pot of coffee.

ELEANOR FRIEND

TRIP OF APRIL 25 TO THE LOCAL FLORA SECTION
OF THE BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN

About 25 members and guests of the club came to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden to visit the Local Flora Section, now about 5 years old. As Dr. Svenson was away on a collecting trip in the South, the group was met by a substitute leader.

In spite of the cold weather which delayed the flowering of many plants, about 50 species were seen in bloom, all in their characteristic habitats prepared for them in the Garden.

In a shallow sandy pond the bare spikes of *Orontium aquaticum* stood up; and around the border of this pond *Myrica carolinensis* and *Myrica asplenifolia* were showing staminate catkins. In a typical sand barren the flowers of *Corema Conradii* were still out, and those of *Viola pedata* var. *lineariloba* were just beginning to open.

Kalmia polifolia was in bud in the bog; and in the moist area around its borders *Chamaedaphne calyculata*, *Helonias bullata*, and *Myrica Gale* (staminate) were still in flower, and *Rhododendron canadense* almost ready to burst into bloom. In a sandy area near the bog *Leiophyllum buxifolium* was full of tiny buds and *Pyxidantha barbulata* in full bloom. A little patch of *Epigaea repens* was blooming in dry sand; and in the shelter of a rock wall on the southwest was *Viola rotundifolia*. *Saxifraga virginensis* was the only plant in bloom on the serpentine slope.

Along the brook were flowers of *Coptis trifolia*, *Viola affinis*, and *Mertensia virginica*, as well as old flowers of *Symplocarpus foetidus*; and in the meadow at the outlet of the brook *Caltha palustris* and *Trollius laxus* were blooming and fruiting both at once.

The rich woodland section was full of spring flowers, some of the most interesting of which were *Trillium grandiflorum* and *Trillium erectum*, *Uvularia grandiflora* (buds), *Asarum canadense*, *Caulophyllum thalictroides*, *Jeffersonia diphylla*, *Podophyllum peltatum* (in bud), *Sanguinaria canadensis*, *Mitella diphylla*, and half a dozen species of violets.

The more open wooded slope was almost a solid mass of *Viola latiuscula*, with a few other species intermingled, such as *Claytonia caroliniana* and *Claytonia virginica*, *Hepatica acutiloba*, *Ranunculus fascicularis*, *Ranunculus hispidus*, and *Aquilegia canadensis*.

HESTER W. RUSK

MOHONK WEEK-END TRIP—MAY 1 TO 3

The week-end spent at Lake Mohonk by 20 members and friends of the club was delightful beyond description. The high mountains, lichen-covered rocks, and broad vistas were exhilarating and demanding to those interested in botany, ornithology and herpetology.

Mr. Smiley, who was an excellent host and leader thruout the week-end, led an all-day trip on Saturday. Among herbaceous plants seen in flower were *Houstonia caerulea*, *Anemonella thalictroides*, *Anemone quinquefolia*, *Viola conspersa*, *V. cucullata*, *V. sororia*, *V. pallens*, *V. rotundifolia*, *V. pubescens*, *Coptis trifolia*, *Medeola virginiana* and *Asarum canadense*. *Amelanchier canadensis* was at the height of its bloom while *Acer pennsylvanicum*, *A. spicatum*, *Kalmia latifolia* and *Tsuga canadensis* were prevalent. Most of our native trees were represented, some in unusually attractive stands.

The rarest of ferns seen was a small clump of *Camptosaurus rhizophyllus*. *Aspeeniun ebenoides* was quite common in particular areas altho it was not growing on or near limestone. *Bartramia pomiformis* was abundant on the west slope of one of the hills.

Birds quite naturally claimed our attention at intervals, for the unspoiled hemlock and deciduous tree associations are havens for birds. Mr. Smiley listed the following species during course of day: Black and White Warbler, Turkey Vulture, Towhee, Crow, Ruffed Grouse, Junco, Red-Tailed Hawk, Chickadee, Ovenbird, Blackthroated Green Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Hairy Woodpecker, Wood Thrush, Phoebe and Blue-headed Vireo.

A party of three including our host went on a herpetological trip after dark. As we neared our destination a chorus of frog voices mingled with whip-poor-wills greeted us. Pickeral frogs which were most numerous were singing above and under water and their egg masses were numerous. Upon examination of masses it was seen that they were in all stages of development. Green frogs, bull frogs and spring peepers were also observed and a few taken to exhibit in the School Nature League Room at the American Museum of Natural History. Three water snakes and numerous painted turtles were seen in the pond. A

spring and its stream were investigated for red salamanders but only very large dusky salamanders were found.

After being rewarded for getting up in the wee small hours and hiking up to sky-top by seeing the sun rise between showers, a few of us went "birding." More birds were heard than seen due to dense foliage. Those recorded were: Robin, Chipping Sparrow, Towhee, Flicker, Ovenbird, Black and White Warbler, Chicadee, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Junco, Hawk (*Buteo* sp.), White-throated Sparrow, Winter Wren, Blue Jay, Blue-headed Vireo.

A few of us who were not to be phased by a little rain spent Sunday morning exploring on wooded hills and in a swamp. Mosses and lichens were in excellent condition due to the rain. *Umbilicaria Muhlenbergii* was seen growing with *U. pustulata*, *U. Dillenii*, and *U. pennsylvanica*. A lichen expert would have been an asset to the party.

Trillium undulatum in flower and a sturdy stand of *Clintonia borealis* were revealed to us and afforded us more pleasure than any other specimens seen during the week-end. *Caltha palustris*, *Panax trifolium*, *Trillium erectum*, *Dentaria diphylla* and many others were seen in flower. A splendid stand of *Viburnum alnifolium* in flower was seen growing with *Kalmia latifolia* along the edge of the swamp.

ELEANOR FRIEND

FIELD TRIP OF MAY 3

In alternate sunshine and thunder showers, ten members and guests of the Club explored the ledges and valley of Inwood Park, Manhattan, on Sunday afternoon, May 3. Sixty-three species of woody plants were seen, of which twenty-five were in bloom. Of these, the most conspicuous was the cloud of fragile white flowers of the shadbush (*Amelanchier canadensis*), and the most interesting were the greenish flowers of the hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*), with their curious horn-like stigmas, long-pointed and recurved.

The fine stands of oaks on the hillsides, and the tall tulip trees in the Glen appear to be but slightly affected by the extensive draining, grading, and road-building operations which are still in progress. But the delicate herbaceous plants in Shor-a-kapkok Glen are fast retreating before the advance of the steam

shovel. Despite the "improvements," however, the Dutchman's breeches (*Dicentra Cucullaria*) seems to be holding its ground, for a number of fruiting plants were found, as well as a few belated flowers. The robust jack-in-the-pulpit, too (*Arisaema triphyllum*), is determined, apparently, to survive. Several patches of toothwort (*Dentaria laciniata*) were in bloom, and one plant of *D. diphylla*. The blue cohosh (*Caulophyllum thalictroides*) was in flower, but very few specimens were seen.

The famous old giant tulip tree near the spring, now in the last stages of decrepitude, still stands at the edge of Spuyten Duyvil. But only the glacial pot-holes at the head of the Glen, together with the Indian caves in the shelter of Cock Hill cliff, remain unchanged by the swirl of progress around them.

HILDA VILKOMERSON

FIELD TRIP OF MAY 17 TO MR. LEWIS' ESTATE

Eleven members of the club enjoyed the trip on Sunday, May 17, to "Skylands," the estate of Mr. Clarence McK. Lewis, at Sterlington, N.Y. With Mr. Longmuir, the head gardener, as guide, the party walked through the gardens. An extensive wild garden where Japanese primroses and species of American plants are naturalized was particularly charming. Of much interest was a plantation of *Meconopsis Baileyi*, of perhaps fifty or sixty robust plants, with a number about to bloom. Had the trip been a week later, a long border of Oriental poppies in full bloom would have made a grand display.

After lunch the group, again with Mr. Longmuir as guide, climbed the mountain that overshadows the gardens and took pleasure in the view from the summit, including the Wanaque Reservoir.

It is hoped that the club may enjoy a trip to "Skylands" another year. The estate bears testimony to Mr. Lewis' great interest in horticulture.

J. HARRY LOGAN

FIELD TRIP OF MAY 24 TO NEW HAVEN

Members of the club particularly interested in lichens visited New Haven and vicinity on Sunday, May 24, as the guests of Dr. Alexander W. Evans, of Yale University. The forenoon was

devoted to examination of Dr. Evans' large and growing collection of *Cladoniae*, in the Osborn Botanical Laboratory, at Prospect and Sachem Streets. It is now one of the largest and most representative herbaria of American species, with many foreign ones as well. A considerable number of the packets bore the names of members of the Torrey Botanical Club, who have sent specimens of *Cladoniae* to Dr. Evans for determination, including Mrs. Gladys P. Anderson, George F. Dillman, John Thomson and others.

In the afternoon, the party motored to Bethany, ten miles north of New Haven, under the guidance of Dr. Evans and Dr. Nichols. There a swamp, containing much *Chamaecyparis thyoides*, with a quaking bog in the center which is one of Dr. Evans' favorite collecting spots, was visited. A *Cladonia* new to this writer, which is common here, around the roots of *Chamaedaphne calyculata*, was *C. glauca*, not yet reported from southern New York or New Jersey, but which should be looked for in similar boggy situations, in our range. *C. rangiferina*, *mitis* and *tenuis* were frequent in spots above the water level. *Drosera* and *Sarracenia* occurred in the open bog, and *Calla palustis* in the wet woods bordering it.

RAYMOND H. TORREY

BRANCHVILLE NATURE OUTING, MAY 22 TO 24

About seventy members and guests of the Torrey Club gathered at The Pines, Branchville, N.J., for the eleventh annual nature outing. On other years the members were greeted on arrival by Mr. Stephen Smith, proprietor of the inn and a member of the club. It was he who had kept the surroundings in their natural beauty and encouraged the growth of native wild flowers in the woods. His recent death cast a shadow over the gathering, though Mrs. Smith carried on so well that nothing was left undone for the comfort of those attending the outing. On Friday evening Dr. Henry Kummel, Director of the New Jersey State Department of Conservation, gave a talk on the geology of Northern New Jersey, illustrating the talk by the aid of a large geological map. Dr. Kummel also distributed mimeographed sheets describing the geological formations to be seen on the trips of the following days. Mr. Oliver P. Medsger

entertained the group with a talk on Nature Poetry, quoting a wide variety of poems, ancient and modern. Saturday morning Mr. and Mrs. S. Harmsted Chubb led an early morning bird trip. Another bird trip was taken later, after breakfast, and still another on Sunday morning early. The birds seen were in general the same ones observed at Branchville in other years. The semi-palmated plovers by the pond below the Inn were new to the region as far as observations by the party went. Other trips were led by Dr. Benedict for ferns, with the discovery of several hybrids of the crested shield fern; by Dr. Svenson for the study of flowering plants; by Mr. Medsger for nature study and by Professor Green for the study of trees. Another program on Saturday evening featured a talk on ferns by Dr. Benedict, illustrated with growing plants brought from the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and a talk on Wild Animals I have Known by Prof. Green describing especially Radio Kelly, the rattlesnake, Tiny and Punsxy the baby bears, and the raven that became a college pest as well as a pet.

Though the region has been visited so many times by the club new things are noted every year. Many members were thrilled by the considerable number of adder's tongue fern, *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, found in the wet meadow below the Inn. *Smilax hispida* with its bristly black stems and a meadow rue, *Thalictrum revolutum*, different from the best-known ones, were other plants new to many of the party.

GEORGE T. HASTINGS